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GANG PROGRAMS OPERATING WITHIN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Attendees of the Gang Prevention/Intervention meeting held on February 6, 2003 were contacted to determine what programs they have in place or are aware of within the County of San Diego.

Each contact (see attached list) was asked the following questions relating to gang prevention and intervention:

- 1. Do you have a gang prevention or intervention program in place?
- 2. What is the target group and age of participants in your program?
- 3. Where is the funding for your program derived from?

Is the program subject to any effectiveness evaluation? Unfortunately, most of the programs included in this report do not evaluate the effectiveness of the programs. The only programs that do engage in evaluation are the Barrio Station via surveys and assessments and the San Diego Police Department's Street Gang Unit through gang crime statistics. They submit monthly reports that document a variety of data, including the number of cases received, arrests, number of gang members and sets, and even document the number of gang members purged from the system.

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

Program	Program Type	Funding
Project Safe Neighborhoods	Primarily Enforcement	Federal
Children's Initiative	A component of PSN "GREAT"	Federal
The SDPD's Street Gang Unit	Enforcement, investigation and	
	prosecution	
Gang Suppression Unit	Suppression	Probation Department
Spectrum Counseling	Suppression/Aversion	
CA Youth Authority	Tattoo Removal	State
Barrio Station	Diversion/Prevention/Intervention	Variety of grants and donations
Project STAR (an extension of	Intervention	City of San Diego
Barrio Station)		
SD Youth & Community	Prevention/Intervention	SD Health & Human Services,
Services		Contract Operations, & The
		Office of Criminal Justice &
		Planning
Breaking Cycles (an extension of SDYCS)	Intervention	α.
Gang Alternative Program (an	Prevention/Intervention	cc
extension of SDYCS)		
Youth Education Town (an	Intervention	cc
extension of SDYCS)		
Camp Barret	Intervention	
Metro United Urban Ministry	Prevention and Intervention	Dept. of Labor
San Diego Youth at Work (an	Prevention/Intervention	Dept. of Labor
extension of Metro United Urban		
Ministry)		
Y change (Metro United Urban	Intervention	Dept. of Labor
Ministry)		
Urban Warrior Foundation	Intervention	Dept. of Labor
(Metro United Urban Ministry)		
Community Youth Athletic	Prevention	Grant from National City &
Center		private donations
Community Assessment Team	Prevention	Partially funded by the SD
(an extension of SDYCS)		County Probation Dept.
Bureau of Investigations	Witness Protection/Relocation	BOI
Price Charities	Community Specific	Private
	Education/Housing	
Literacy Program	Adult education for non-violent	County Initiative
	offenders	
Juvenile Probation	Suppression	Probation Department
Palavara Tree	Intervention/Prevention	Combination of County and
		State (tobacco funds)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

San Diego is the seventh largest city in the United States and has one of the lowest crime rates among all major U.S. cities. However, during 2001, San Diego experienced an increase in violent crime - the first time in nine years that an increase in violent crime occurred. San Diego harbors an estimated 10,000 documented gang members, along with tens of thousands of individuals who are under probation or parole supervision. A preliminary investigation has illustrated a dearth of youth gang intervention or prevention-oriented programs within the county. In addition, nearly all of the existing programs target post-conviction gang members/offenders. Despite this fact however, the County of San Diego does have some programs in place that do address gang activity in our communities.

John Kraemer (619-257-2934), Assistant U.S. Attorney provided the following information regarding the **Project Safe Neighborhoods** (PSN). **Project Safe Neighborhoods** (PSN) is a nationwide program that is centered on the reduction of gun related crime. Local agencies, along with Federal agencies, are coordinated through the U.S. Attorney's Office to create a task force with the common goal of reducing gun related crime. In San Diego, the PSN program is coordinated by John Kraemer, Assistant U.S. Atty. and Robert Amador, Deputy District Atty. Robert is a critical component in the implementation of PSN and is responsible for working with the local agencies to make effective use of resources, as well as being in charge of grant allocation. PSN utilizes the cooperation of all agencies in aggressive enforcement of gun related crimes, identifying opportunities to reduce gun related crimes, and education through community outreach.

The San Diego Police Department participates in the **Children's Initiative**, the community outreach portion of PSN, will operate the "**GREAT**" program where school visits are used to educate young children to the dangers of guns in the community. However, this program is still in the development stage. The goals are to mount an aggressive media campaign accompanied by an integration of multiple community-based programs to provide education, neighborhood improvement, and alternative programs for high risk groups. The program administrators are working on Federal funding for the "Great" program and anticipate some implementation beginning in September 2003. John Kraemer is enthusiastic about the opportunities that will become available as the project takes shape. One drawback is the expected limitations imposed by the current fiscal situation present in California and the Federal government.

This information was obtained from Lt. Vince Villalvazo (619-531-2561) of the San Diego Police Department. **The San Diego Police Department's Street Gang Unit** is responsible for investigating all felony gang related crimes. The unit consists of one lieutenant, five detective sergeants, two patrol sergeants, 25 detectives, and 12 patrol officers. The personnel are divided into seven teams. Five of the teams are investigative teams and two are Patrol teams (designated Gang Suppression Teams).

Most of the resources are directed at enforcement, investigation and prosecution of gang members involved in violent criminal activity. The unit is also responsible for maintaining/managing gang files, including documentation of gangs and gang members per California Department of Justice guidelines. Currently there are 86 documented gangs with approximately 5,128 gang members. The SDPD is involved with prevention and intervention but not as the primary focus. The unit is available for providing gang awareness presentations to a variety of groups. In 2002, 42 gang awareness presentations were offered.

They are currently part of the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force - Gang Group, with a sergeant and two detectives participating on the task force. They receive reimbursement for some overtime costs that are related to some of the cases.

The target groups are any of the documented gangs within the City. The detective teams are assigned to gang groups, primarily along ethnic groups. One team for Black gang sets, one for Asian gangs, and one for Hispanic gangs. One team is designated as a "proactive" team focusing on self initiated activity largely with the use of informants.

The Gang Suppression Team (uniformed officers) engages in high profile gang enforcement throughout the City. They generally focus their activity on areas that are experiencing high gang activity.

They continually monitor the unit's effectiveness through gang crime statistics. They submit monthly reports that document a variety of data, including the number of cases received, arrests, number of gang members and sets, and even document the number of gang members purged from the system.

Pamela Martinez (858-694-4401), Director of the **Juvenile Gang Suppression Unit**, has provided the following information concerning county probation. The Juvenile Probation Department for the county attempts to suppress gang activity in juveniles sentenced to supervision in their jurisdiction. Probation Officers meet with parents and probationers to deliver the rules and expectations of the probation process. Probationers are directed to break contacts and activities with the gang. Parents are given information on how to identify and discourage gang activity by the juvenile. Probation Officers also make community presentations to educate the public on warning signs and identification of gang activity in their neighborhoods. There are 18 Juvenile Probation Officers and one Probation Supervisor who supervise over 700 juvenile offenders. Although the Probation Department does participate in some community outreach, their principle responsibilities are toward discouraging criminal activity in convicted offenders.

William Apano (858-694-4754) was contacted and provided the following information. **Spectrum**, a unit of **New Alternative Programs**, provides group and individual counseling to juveniles sentenced to the Juvenile Justice System. At this time, there is one counselor operating in Juvenile Hall, William Apano. Mr. Apano teaches lifestyle reengineering integrated with existing programs in the Juvenile justice system to achieve the goal of suppression/aversion of gang activity in the juvenile offenders.

Additionally, Mr. Apano estimates the recidivism rate at approximately 5% for those enrolled in his counseling program. The drawback is that Mr. Apano is the only counselor implementing the gang suppression program in Juvenile Hall. At this time we do not know the source of New Alternative's funding; that information will be provided as soon as possible.

The following information on the tattoo removal program was found on the website http://www.cya.ca.gov/juvenile/tattooremoval.html. The California Youth Authority (CYA) operates a tattoo removal program to enhance employment and educational opportunities for at-risk youth. In exchange for removing offensive or gang related tattoos free of charge, participants must be involved in constructive activities such as school, employment, vocational training, and community service activities. Eligible youth must be under the age of twenty-five. For males, tattoos are removed from the lower arm, hand, neck and head areas. For females, tattoos for removal must be visible in a professional work environment. The presence of the tattoo must be deemed to present either a threat to the personal safety of, or an obstacle to employment. Priority is given to youth who have a job offer that is contingent upon removal of the tattoo. Senate Bill 1700 (Hayden) required the CYA to place a laser tattoo removal machine in San Diego County. The tattoo removal program is coordinated by the Clean Start program at Polinsky Juvenile Center.

This information was found on the Barrio Station website: http://www.barriostation.org/index.htm. The Barrio Station, established in 1970, is a private nonprofit charitable organization with an average annual budget of 1,000,000.00 which is funded by a variety of sources to include the City and County of San Diego and private donations. The agency provides services to disadvantaged ethnic youths that are at a high risk of becoming involved in acts of juvenile delinquency, as well as severe criminal behavior. Within the targeted areas served, there exists a high rate of gang and youth violence, teenage pregnancy, graffiti and other forms of vandalism, the illicit use of drugs and alcohol, school dropout rates, incompatible land uses, in addition to neighborhood deterioration and neglect.

Services of the **Barrio Station** include "Diversion," "Prevention" and "Intervention" efforts.

The <u>Diversion component</u> entails the placement of juvenile offenders with the agency by the juvenile justice system for informal supervision as an alternative to detention.

<u>Prevention services</u> are provided to various age groups through service categories at school locations and Barrio Station, owned and operated, youth facilities. These prevention activities have impacted such problems as gang violence, teenage pregnancy, school dropouts, illicit use of narcotics and other chemical substances, in addition to a multitude of other vexing social problems. Prevention services are directed at male and female youths, 10 - 17 years of age, or high school seniors, by substantial cooperation from the San Diego Unified and Sweetwater Union High School Districts.

<u>Intervention services</u> provided by the Barrio Station are utilized through crisis intervention in dealing with rival gang violence, intra-ethnic student fights and altercations, threats of suicide, violence brought on by family dysfunction and drug addiction. The need for proactive, "early intervention" services is escalated by inadequate attention and resources being dedicated to youth who fall between prevention and late intervention. Early intervention services can significantly improve the life chances of youths not yet seriously involved with the juvenile justice system or gang life. A specific intervention program that is an extension of the Barrio Station is **Project STAR**

These services include regularly scheduled school site group and individual counseling sessions. Additionally, recreational activities serve as important vehicles in prevention services within the targeted communities. The recreational activities provided by the agency include indoor boxing and karate lessons, performing arts, on-site and outing events, as well as weight lifting and major festive events.

Project STAR was created in 1985, has an annual budget of 254,493 and is funded by the City of San Diego. Project STAR works with gang youth on a San Diego City wide basis. Neighborhood Youth Counselors work with this population during their most difficult years, ages 13 to 24 years. It is during these critical years that these youth are most likely to commit or be the victims of crimes of violence, the results of which can be prison or death. The mission of Project STAR is to alleviate youth gang violence through life in a uniquely designed case management program, which allows clients to receive services for up to 11 years. During the course of the case management clients are provided with individual, group and family counseling. Other services provided are educational workshops to inform the youth of the current laws and pending legislation related to gang activity. The thrust of Project STAR is Crisis Intervention as a means of diminishing violence. Targeting area schools, from the elementary to high school levels, Project Star counselors provide a positive impact with regular weekly visits rendering crisis intervention by rumor control and conflict resolution. Evaluation efforts include surveys and assessments to ascertain the attainment of objectives and the impact on target communities. Based on conclusions, the Board of Directors and administration determine if services are being effective or need changing.

The following information was found on the **San Diego Youth & Community Services** website: http://www.sdycs.org/. San Diego Youth & Community Services (**SDYCS**) was created in 1970 to provide an emergency shelter for homeless, abused, and runaway children. Today the non-profit organization has grown to include eleven major programs located at nine different facilities throughout San Diego County. SDYCS is funded by San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Contract Operations and The Office of Criminal Justice and Planning. The annual budget exceeds \$7 million and 87 percent of the funds go directly to youth services. Some of the programs that deal with gang youth, either directly or indirectly, are as follows:

Breaking Cycles is a continuation of services program, which is funded by Juvenile Probation that serves the most "at-risk" youth population in the probation system (those who have been incarcerated several times).

The goal of the program is to "Break the Cycle" of ongoing arrests and illegal activities. The young people enrolled (ages 13-18) receive a comprehensive assessment (education, alcohol/drug use, mental health and probation status). A plan to address pertinent issues is then implemented and the youth are placed in the component of the Breaking Cycles System that best meets their needs (day treatment, juvenile detention facility, or sent back home with support). Normally they will be placed in the most restrictive environment recommended, with the goal of stepping the youth down to lower levels of care by the end of their "Breaking Cycles" time. At each step, a youth will receive services from a team of professionals that includes an Alcohol and Drug Specialist, mental health professional, and probation officer.

The **East County Community Center**, which is an extension of the **SDYCS** provides the following programs:

Additional information regarding the **Gang Alternatives Program (GAP)** was provided by Jerry at 619-258-6877. The GAP provides intervention with gang-involved youth to develop alternative methods of conflict resolution, as well as guidance on functioning in society. Youth in the program are assessed for their risks and resiliencies regarding delinquency and receive targeted intervention to address each youth's individual strengths and challenges.

GAP I: Gap I is focused on prevention and targets 9 to 15 year-old youth at-risk of gang involvement. The goal of GAP I is to reduce gang involvement and to increase the awareness of youth, parents, community, school staff, and administrators of the gang activity in East County.

GAP II: Gap II is focused on intervention and targets youth already identified by law enforcement, the juvenile court system, and the juvenile probation department as having gang involvement. The goal is to reduce gang involvement in East County youth.

Information for the **Youth Education Town (YET)** was provided by Aide Guevara at 232-8126. The **YET** program provides a variety of services and classes to at risk youths, including gang members. Some of the services include mentoring, conflict mediation classes, academic support, recreational activities and individual living skills classes.

Information concerning **Camp Barret** was provided by Dr. Ronald Maki (619-401-4926). **Camp Barret** is a local San Diego facility for teenagers between 16 and 18 years of age. Youths who attend Camp Barret are placed there by the courts as an alternative to the California Youth Authority. Seventy to 80% percent of the youths are gang members and 75% are involved in drugs and alcohol. While at Camp Barret, youths work, go to school and attend additional classes such as anger management and life skills. Camp Barret has a maximum of 144 beds and individuals spend any where from 270 to 540 days at the camp. Approximately 80% finish the program; however, the recidivism rate is extremely high.

Autie Hines (619-263-0363) provided the following information for the **Metro United Urban Ministry**. The Metro United Urban Ministry has implemented 3 programs aimed at gang intervention and prevention.

- 1. The **San Diego Youth at Work** program targets out of school, at risk youths in San Diego. The target age group is 14-21 and the program targets youths in the 92101, 92102, & 92113 area codes. The primary focus is workforce development and assisting San Diego youths in obtaining high school diplomas, a GEDs and or gainful employment. The program is funded by the Department of Labor in Washington D.C. and has a budget of 8 million dollars over 5 years.
- 2. The **Y** Change program serves young adults 18-24 years of age who are currently under supervision (probation or parole) and/or have been in custody for 12 months or less at any time in their lives for non-violent and non-sexual offenses. Services include job placement, job training, community and civic engagement, court advocacy, and comprehensive case management. This program is funded by the Department of Labor in Washington D.C. and has a budget of 2 million over 2 years.
- 3. **Urban Warrior Foundation** brings X-gang members together to evaluate the effectiveness of the programs. They refer at risk youths within the community to these programs and serve as motivational speakers as well.

Non-Gang Specific Programs within the Community

Information was provided by DDA Carlos Varela (619-531-4069). The Community Youth Athletic Center (CYAC) is a local community center that offers education enhancement programs (after school tutoring and computer lab), field trips that allow youth who attend to interact with positive roll models in a safe environment, and an amateur boxing and training program. The programs mission is to provide at-risk and economically challenged youth with a constructive alternative to self-defeating behavior through an athletic and academic support program. The CYAC is a nonprofit organization and is funded, in part, by National City and other private donations.

Information was obtained from the SDYCS website: http://www.sdycs.org/. The Community Assessment Team (CAT) is designed to assist families with youngsters who may be at risk of criminal involvement. It is partially funded through the San Diego County Probation Department. The program links young people and their families to a variety of services, helping them efficiently access those services when they need them. Although the CAT program is not specifically oriented toward gang members, they often work with youth involved in gang membership.

Russ Oliver, PAI, (619-515-8151) and Kathy O'Connell (619-531-3586) provided the following information. The **Bureau of Investigations** (BOI) in the DA's Office provides relocation services to witnesses of gang crime in the county. Witnesses are

placed in housing and supported for periods of time to allow them to find gainful employment in an area outside the range of influence for the gang in question. This program only addresses witnesses and does not purport to deter any gang activity. The program is directed by DAI Russ Oliver. Funding for the program may be in question due to the fiscal situation in California at this time.

Laura Galinson (858-551-2335), a coordinator of the **Price Charities** has provided the following information. **Price Charities** operates a program that specifically targets the City Heights neighborhood within San Diego. Private funding supplements low cost housing, home loans, and most importantly, education for public schools located in City Heights. The health and social welfare of students is enhanced by full time on-site nurses and social workers funded by the charity. San Diego State University is partnered with Price Charities to provide valuable resources for curriculum and program designs that are implemented in the City Heights school district. Programs are designed to increase community involvement, education quality, education experience, and the welfare of the children. Results of their efforts have yielded consistently increasing SAT scores, 95% attendance ratings, higher education for teachers, higher teacher retention, and over 30,000 hours of volunteer time given to the schools. Price Charities is not geared toward any specific group, only those individuals in the City Heights area. Their program appears to be making excellent progress toward increasing the quality of life in the neighborhood.

Laura Galinson has also provided a wealth of information relating to grant funded initiatives in California that attempt to improve the quality of life for individuals affected by crime and substance abuse. She has provided a list of community outreach programs directed through organizations such as the Weingart Foundation, San Diego Foundation, Alliance Healthcare, San Diego Grant Makers, and the California Endowment. All of the listed organizations, as well as many additional participating organizations, are listed in Members section of the San Diego Grant Makers web http://www.sdgrantmakers.org/about us/member list.asp. Laura identified Olga De La Cruz Canyon of the California Endowment and Julie Holdaway of San Diego Grant Makers as key people for coordinating funding efforts for an outreach program. The Weingart Foundation is currently implementing an approximately 10 million dollar program aimed directly at gang prevention in Los Angeles. Murray Galinson is attending the meeting that is currently taking place to coordinate the future efforts of the program and Laura stated that she will provide any relevant information that is obtained to us.

Reverend D'Adran Bryant (619-338-4800), the Executive Director of the **Adult Literacy Program**, has provided the following information. Adult Literacy is a program directed by Reverend D'Adran Bryant that teaches non-violent/non-serious offenders to read. This program is sponsored through the DA's Office with DDA Sherry Thompson as the coordinator. The program is affiliated with several community and faith-based organizations to help 18-35 year old offenders gain literacy skills to improve their social and economic situations. The program is based on a successful implementation in Arizona and Florida; however, we are unable to locate the studies that examined effectiveness in those states. An examination of the extant literature of similar programs

did show they were effective, but for juveniles, the program must be periodically reinforced. Reverend Bryant is very interested in expanding the program to juveniles within the county. The funding for the Literacy program is completely utilized at this time and would require additional resources to expand to a broader audience.

Dr. Cleo Malone (619) 267-7768 provided the following information concerning the **Palavra Tree** program. Palavra Tree is an active intervention program that conducts between 80% and 90% of their intervention directly with substance abuse cliental on the streets or with communities who are looking to decrease the level of substance abuse in their neighborhoods. Although most intervention and prevention clients are targeted on the street, the program does operate with referrals from the drug court or other community outreach programs. At any given time the program is aiding 30-50 adolescents as well as nearly 100 adults. Funding for the program is derived from the County and State Tobacco Funds.

GANG PREVENTION / INTERVENTION ROSTER APRIL 2003

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